

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 294079

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE, FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG

FOL MAPUTO 1492 SENT ACTION SECSTATE BRUSSELS INFO DAR ES
SALAAM LONDON LUSAKA PRETORIA DEC 8, 1977 REPEATED TO YOU
QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MAPUTO 1492

BRUSSELS FOR USDEL SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: RH

SUBJECT: NKOMO AND MUGABE PRESS CONFERENCE IN MAPUTO

1. SUMMARY. PATRIOTIC FRONT (PF) PRESS RELEASE ISSUED
TODAY BY PF LEADERS JOSHUA NKOMO AND ROBERT MUGABE STATES
THAT PF WILL NOT BE SENDING A DELEGATION TO LONDON FOR
DECEMBER 13 TALKS WITH BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY DAVID
OWEN. HOWEVER, NKOMO AND MUGABE DID NOT CLOSE THE DOOR
TO FUTURE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE BRITISH. IN PRESS RELEASE AND
LETTER (READ AT PRESS CONFERENCE) FROM NKOMO AND MUGABE TO OWEN, PF
CO-LEADERS INDICATED THEY WOULD BE WILLING TO DISCUSS THE
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ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSAL IF "DR. OWEN CLEARLY RECOMMITTS
HIMSELF TO HIS ORIGINAL UNDERTAKING TO WORK FOR TRANSITIONAL
AGREEMENT INCLUDING THE REMOVAL OF SMITH AND THE RHODESI-
AN FRONT AND THE DISMANTLING OF THE SETTLER FORCES." END
SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING COMPLETION OF FOUR AND A-HALF DAYS OF MEETINGS,

PF LEADERS JOSHUA NKOMO AND ROBERT MUGABE HELD A 30-MINUTE PRESS CONFERENCE IN MAPUTO. PF LEADERS RELEASED TWO STATEMENTS: A PRESS RELEASE SUMMARIZING SOME OF THE ISSUES THEY DISCUSSED AND TEXT OF A LETTER FROM NKOMO AND MUGABE TO FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN ABOUT HIS INVITATION FOR THEM TO MEET WITH HIM. PF PRESS RELEASE WAS HIGHLY CRITICAL OF DR. OWEN FOR HIS RECENT REMARKS FOLLOWING RHODESIAN RAIDS INTO MOZAMBIQUE AND STATED THAT PF WOULD NOT BE SENDING DELEGATION TO TMEET WITH OWN IN LONDON ON DECEMBER 13. HOWEVER, PRESS RELEASE MADE IT CLEAR THAT PF WOULD CONSIDER FUTURE TALKS WITH BRITISH IF DR. OWEN WERE SINCERELY COMMITTED TO REMOVING SMITH FROM POWER AND DISMANTLING EXISTING RHODESIAN MILITARY JNITS.

3. NKOMO AND MUGABE LETTER TO OWN COVERED SAME GROUND AS PRESS RELEASE ND CLEARLY LEFT DOOR OPEN FOR FURTHER PF/BRITISH TALKS ON ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSAL.

4. AT CONCLUSION OF PRESS CONFERENCE, NKOMO ANSWERED TWO QUESTIONS AND MUGABE ONE. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ABOUT WHETHER HE WAS NOW REVERSING HIS POSITION ON MEETING WITH OWEN ON THE 13TH, NKOMO DENIED STRONGLY THAT HE HAD EVER AGREED TO MEET WITH OWEN IN LONDON. "I HAVE NEVER ACCEPTED THE BRITISH OFFER TO MEET IN LONDON," HE DECLARED. ON ELECTIONS, NKOMO SAID THAT AT NO TIME HAD HE EVER REJECTED ELECTIONS. HE ALSO REMARKED THAT KAUNDA'S VIEWS CONFIDENTIAL

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ON ELECTION IN ZIMBABWE "ARE NOT NECESSARILY THOSE OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT." IN ANSWER TO A QUESTION ABOUT WHETHER THE PF WAS WILLING TO ENTER INTO MEANINGFUL DISCUSSIONWITH LORD CARVER ABOUT CEASEFIRE ARRANGEMENTS, MUGABE REPLIED THAT WHEN THE PF MET WITH CARVER IN DAR THEY ADE IT KNOWN THAT THEY WERE THERE TO LISTEN TO CARVER'S IDEAS AND THAT THE FIRST SUBJECT FOR DISCUSSION BETWEEN THE PF AND THE BRITISH "SHOULD BE THE TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS."

5. FULL TEXTS OF PF PRESS RELEASE AND NKOMO-MUGABE LETTER FOLLOW SEPTELS. DEPREE UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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